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Weaving

technical manual

A Technical Manual

Alberta
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Weaving

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Suggested Materials for Children

By Jane Outcalt

Rug yarns. Cheap wool is good. One ply. Some neutrals, some bright, warm colors. Assortment of other yarns...weaving wool...one or two-ply, any linen, mohair, unusual yarns, novelty yarns...knitting wool..."department store" materials, string.

Narrow leather strips.

Cardboard. Lightweight "suit box" weight.

Scissors.

Carpentry leftovers. 4-5 pieces of board ends ranging from 6" x 8" to 8" x 10".

10⅝" dowels.

Box of headless nails.

hammer (2" - 3").

Small saw.

1 dozen big-eyed **blunt** yarn needles.

Armature wire (firm but easily bent wire).

Masking tape.

Consider other items for weaving such as: paper strips, nylons, cloth strips, twine, rope, reed and raffia. Spin your own yarn using wool and even hair.

Looms can also be made from a variety of material such as cardboard, boxes,wire net, onion bags, tree branches, chairs, and plastic strawberry baskets. Use your imagination.

An irregularly shaped loom or unusual materials are good to use for an initial project. By using unexpected materials children are less likely to start by weaving pot holders.

Very thick warp is difficult for beginners to manage as it is very thin warp. Warp can be string, rug yarn, cotton wool. Lumpy or novel yarns are difficult to use.

Knitting yarns stretch. To prevent the edges from pulling together, bubble the weft (yarn with which you weave); that is, the yarn weft in an arc from side to side, then push it into place.

Use a kitchen fork to manipulate weft.

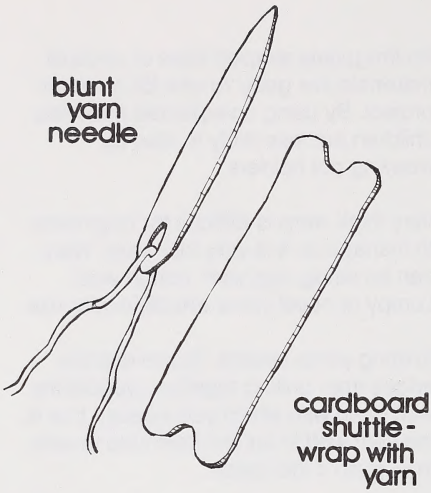
Talk to your weaving. It may know what it wants to be. You could give it a name.

Consider non-yarns:

leather strips
fur
grass
sticks
string
...and yarn.

Be sensitive to the materials. Close your eyes, and feel the difference between yarns. Can you smell the difference between yarns? Can you smell the difference between wool and cotton?

Our enemy: the pot holder. If you need a pot holder, make one. Otherwise, look at what you are weaving, and see something new.



Paper Weaving

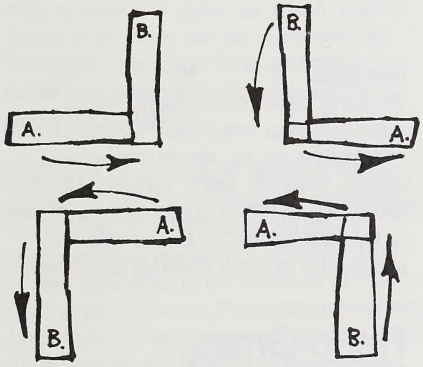
Materials:
Stiff paper, manilla tag, construction paper, colored magazine strips, etc., scissors, glue.

Procedure:
Take a sheet of paper and cut ½ inch strips leaving at least a 1 inch border on three sides of the paper. The strips may be cut in a straight line or in a curved, zig-zag, etc., pattern. Another sheet of paper is cut into strips. These strips (the weft) are then woven into the sheet of strips (warp). The last strip should be glued in.

Evaluation/Comments:
Paper weaving is very common in schools as paper is usually the most readily available material. If paper is in short supply, magazines are always to be found. However, paper weaving for very young children is not the easiest form of weaving if the paper selected is too difficult to cut into strips or tears easily. For example construction paper, because of its structure, is very easily torn. Children with physical or mental handicaps will not manage to be as patient with such paper. The mass purchased, blunt end, scissors valued for their safety features are, however, frustrating to cut with. They are not sharp enough for cutting and after use, come apart and are known for their tearing efficiency. Have you ever tried weaving paper with rough edges? Pre-test materials yourself, and if your efforts are painstaking, do not use them.

Another consideration with young children is the amount of weaving they are given to do. It is very easy for the instructor to cut up the regulation 8" x 24" sheet of paper. For the young child this insurmountably large sheet which looks normal to you as an adult will look larger to the child. This same idea is parallel to filling a plate of food with adult portions. The child will not have a desire to eat it. Use a small dish and a small helping and they may ask for more. A more exciting activity in paper weaving is to have children recall a favorite spotted or striped animal. They draw the animal and cut a patch where the spots or stripes are. By weaving a spotted or striped effect is achieved. The technique of weaving is quickly achieved. The technique of weaving is quickly learned and the transformation of the animal is an exciting end result. The weaving has definite purpose with just enough done without boredom setting in. Often a love for the art of weaving is killed in the first exposure because the instructor sets out specific regulations on the execution and end results of a chosen activity which must be completed to specification come hell or high water. I agree that children should learn techniques and develop a craftspersonship attitude, but not at the expense of killing the joy of doing a craft by overdoing it. Technical skill can be achieved through the introduction of other activities which may require use of the weaving technique.

Weaving in paper can be exciting if it is acknowledged that this material has limitations and its own characteristics. The material has many possibilities if it is accepted on its own terms. You cannot do the same techniques or achieve the same results with paper as you can with yarn. Paper weaving can easily become a craft on its own if it is thoroughly explored. A simple folding technique of two strips is the most elementary form of weaving. Try this technique with yarn and it cannot be done.



Techniques are suited to a material. If another material is chosen because it is more readily or economically available, the transfer of the original technique will usually require modification. Weaving in paper should be placed under the heading of paper art.

Cardboard Weaving

Materials:
Choose any stiff cardboard which will hold the yarn without bending. Include scissors, yarn, warping yarn, needle and tape.

Procedure:
Any shape can be cut out or a manufactured cardboard form may be used. Slits may be cut at the bottom-top of the cardboard. The yarn is then wrapped around the tables formed by the slits. The warp may be placed completely around the cardboard. The cardboard shape may be stitched and the warp run through each stitch. The weft yarn is then taken and woven through the warp.

Evaluation/Comments:
This type of weaving is usually enjoyed by upper elementary children. It can be monotonous if no variation is introduced through:

a) size of weaving format
b) color of yarn used
c) texture of yarns
d) decorative objects and variation of material
e) use of needle or shuttle
f) varying techniques
g) incorporation of spaces for variety.

This weaving also is prone to the girdle effect. Weaving beginners should weave in an arc and then push up the yarn eliminating the warp yarn from tightening towards the middle. As the material used in constructing the loom is easily obtained, economically in both school and home its popularity for children is evident.

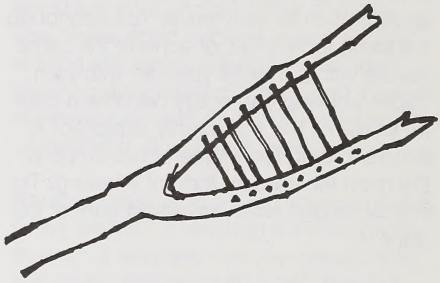
Pre-Formed Warp Weaving

Many items are available which can act as a warp, eliminating the need to warp. Wire mesh, onion sacks, scrim, strawberry cartons, are but a few items which can be woven into. The challenge remains in selecting the proper weft (material used to weave with) to match the object used. Pre-formed warp material is usually inflexible and thus more difficult to weave into, as the warp strands cannot be moved to any extent to allow fingers to push the weft through. It may be necessary to have a needle or a similar instrument by which the weft can be woven.

Burlap/Gunny Sacking

In introducing weaving to children, weaving on burlap is excellent. Some of the jute fibres can be removed and other fibres or yarn woven into the burlap. The child immediately perceives the natural make-up of fabric by taking apart the fibres. Fibres should be taken out from the middle as it easily unravels along the edges. Pre-sewing the edges helps to keep the burlap intact. It is recommended that a small scrap be given to the children to experiment with and to take apart entirely, if so desired. Colorful yarns can be rewoven into the burlap where the fibre has been drawn out. A large-eyed needle is helpful in weaving the yarn into burlap. I have even used a looped paper clip as a needle if no needles were available; however, the use of such make-shift tools is difficult for younger children.

Weaving with Natural Materials



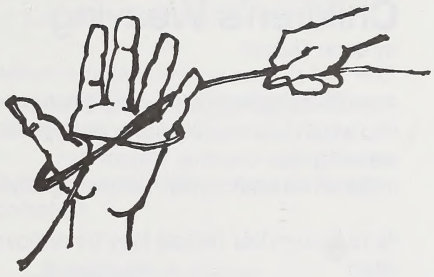
Materials:
Weaving need not be restricted to manufactured materials. Naturally found materials such as, reeds, branches, weeds, grasses, bark, feathers, moss, roots, etc., used in conjunction with yarn or by themselves, open the weaving procedure to more creative possibilities.

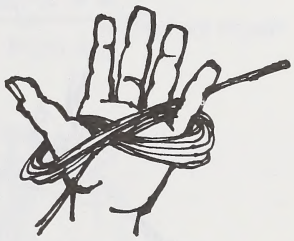
Reed/Grass Matt Weaving

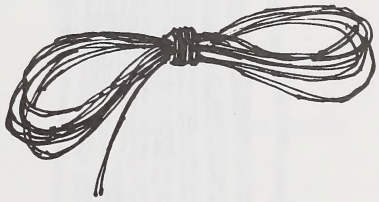
Use of reed is an excellent material for beginners. Cat tail reeds are to be found in abundance, especially in northern Alberta. However, remember that the conservation of our natural resources is important and thus an entire reed colony should not be demolished or unnecessarily wasted. Reeds collected must be left overnight to dry thoroughly. Then the stalks are separated from the main core. Reeds are woven by braiding over and under. Allow the finished weaving to dry completely before varnishing or shellacking to preserve the woven piece and the color of the reeds.

A wide assortment of materials can prove very taxing to the child beginner weaver as the skills of selecting and combining such a wide variety demands a good understanding of design. Furthermore, the brittleness and varied textural qualities of natural material demand developed weaving technical skills. Responsibility rests on the instructor to pre-test materials used with beginners in order that assistance can be provided to students in selecting materials best suited to ideas they wish to execute or techniques which they wish to use. Exposure of students only to materials does not mean that the creative process will be experienced. Provision of enough time is essential in order that beginners can explore the materials sufficiently.

Exposure to weaving to develop interest demands that experiences be rewarding to children. Our emphasis on the manufactured leaves our children with limited exposure to the material of their natural environment. Preparation time may be necessary beginning with manufactured yarns, which are familiar to the children, until children are comfortable with the technique of weaving before the children can comprehend the beauty of natural materials in a manner which does not distract from the natural beauty of the material.







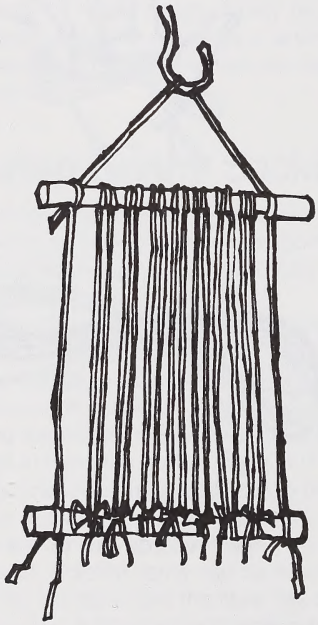
Ideas for Children's Weaving

by Jane Outcalt

Any device which holds warp (material into which you weave) firmly enough for weaving may become a loom. For instance...a branch, bar, interesting object.

tie to bottom bar (which may be removed later).

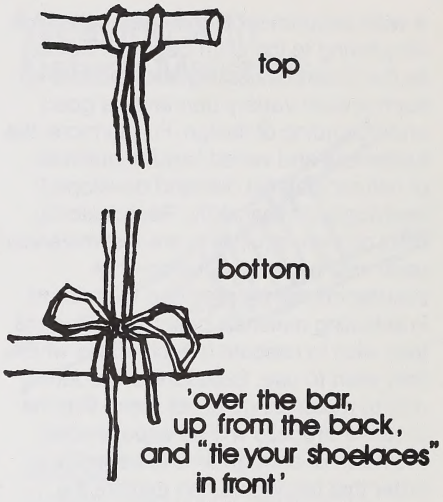
Weight the bottom.



...or turn the whole works sideways.

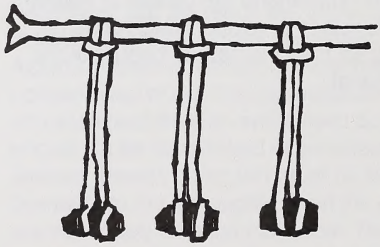
immobilize one end by attaching to a hook, doorknob, nail...

tie the other end around your waist.



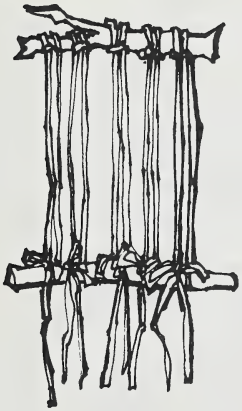
The Weighted Warp

The oldest known weaving method is the weighted warp. The warp threads are tied to some support at their upper ends, and are kept under tension by weights at the lower ends. The top support can be a piece of drift wood, a tree branch, a dowel, anything that would be a natural extension of your weaving.



The ancient Greeks were accomplished weavers. Examples of their weighted warps are illustrated on Greek vases. As early as 3000 B.C. this technique was used in Asia Minor during Neolithic and Bronze ages in Europe, and also in Egypt and Palestine.

1. Attach warp threads to a piece of drift wood with double half-hitches. In order to achieve good tension, use pebbles, twigs, metal washers, etc., at the bottom of your warps. You may attach them with masking tape.



2. Start weaving from the top. Use a variety of materials; just unspun and spun wool, bark, weeds, twigs, reeds, moss, feathers, etc. Since your warp is free-hanging you may make the threads cross twist, overlap and you may use them also as weft for a while and then again as warp.

Also, you may remove the weight from the bottom and thread a bead into your warp.

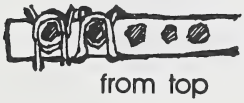
Pin and Nail Weaving

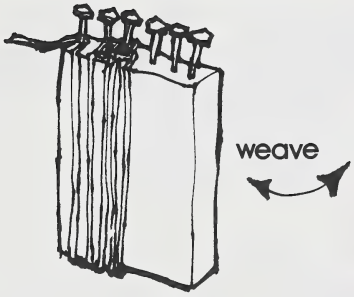
An interesting board into which nails are driven can become a loom. Leave weaving on the board. The "loom" remains a part of the finished weaving.

Notice the patterns that are suggested by the board. Weave holes, perhaps, to let part of the board show through.

Weave a pouch driving nails in one end of a board. The warp goes around each nail twice.

Pull out the nails when the weaving is complete.



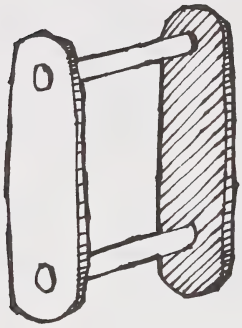


Attach a braided cord for the handle.

Consider these possibilities for looms:

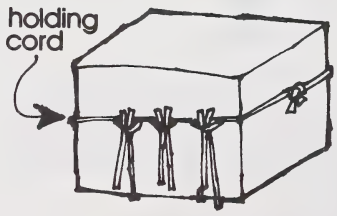
large-headed pins in heavy cardboad
picture frame
wooden box
notched cardboard
bent wire

Cardboard Box Purse Looms



Materials:
This loom can be made or obtained from store-discarded trim bolts or sturdy boxes can also be used.
Tacks
Strong string or seine cord
Scissors
Ruler
Cotton rug yarn

Procedure:
Tack top end of each rod. Tie strong cord around once of twice and knot (this is holding cord). Cut yarn twice length of purse plus reserve for fringe. Warp by folding yarn in half and tie on to a loom. From holding yarn use larks head knot to attach warp yarn.

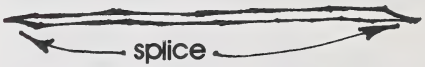


Cut weft yarn twice the width leaving extra for slack and knots. Weave by twinning. Take woven piece off loom by prying up tacks. Close bottom by tying fringe ends in knots. If draw string is used for top, weave three rows and then leave ½" free.

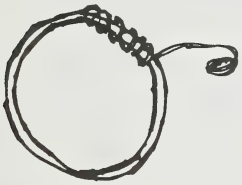
Evaluation/Comments:
This procedure can be used on cardboard boxes. The loom is limited in that it is specifically structured toward a specific end product. If the box is large enough, it is conceivable to weave a skirt. The leaving of space, use of a variety of yarn or other decorative objects will challenge the weaver to explore this project.

Circular Weaving

1. Cut a piece of willow or basketry reed (thick) about 26" long and start bending it gently against your knee. Bend the willow very gently, going over the whole length several times. A reed will require soaking. When you have it in the shape of a circle, splice the two ends and tape them together. Be sure to bend your willow slowly. Allow your willow circle to dry before wrapping and warping it.

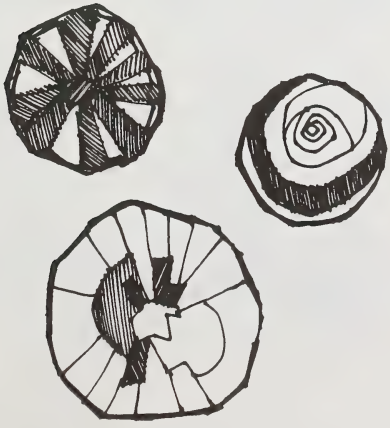


2. You may wrap the circle with yarn. This prevents the warp threads from sliding later on.



3. Now you are ready to warp your circle. Start from the centre and go around the willow, cross over to the opposite side over and under the willow.

4. Leave some of the warp for weaving the centre of your circle, go over, under, over, etc. Your centre can be moved over; it does not have to be in the centre of the circle.

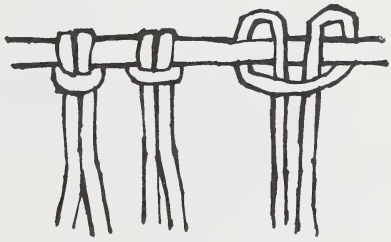


Finger Weaving - Diagonal

By Pirkko Karvonen

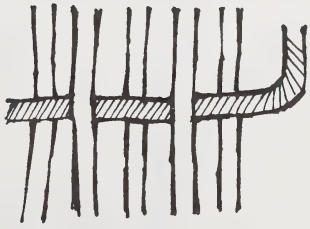
1. Cut your strands 4 yards in length. Attach them to a pencil with double half-hitches. Rug yarn works well. Suggested color arrangements:

a) 3 strands color A, 3 strands color B, 1 strand C, 1 strand A, 1 strand B, 1 strand D, 2 strands C.
b) 4 strands color A, 4 strands color B, 4 strands C.

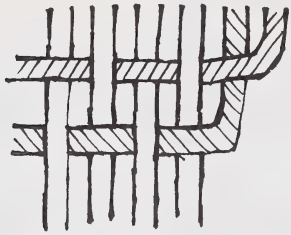


2. Start to weave from the right. Pick up the outside right strand and weave it to the left, over, under, over, etc. Leave it on the left.

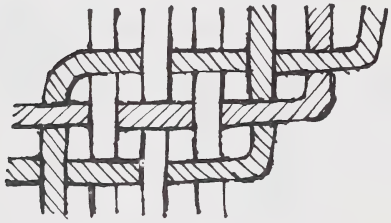
Note: Your weaving will automatically go diagonally, don't try to straighten it.



3. Pick up the next strand, the outside right one, and weave it over, under, over, etc., until it also reaches the left side.

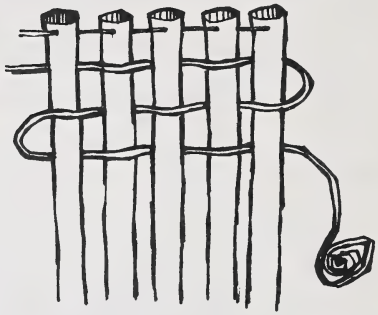


4. Now the strand from the previous row goes under the last strand that you wove.



5. When you have finished the whole belt, take the belt off the pencil and unravel a desired length for a fringe. Take two opposite strands and twist them in between your thumb and forefinger, one with each hand, in the same direction until they are tightly twisted. Now put the two together and twist them in the opposite direction. Tie a small knot at the bottom.

Weaving with Straws



Materials:
Five plastic straws yarn.

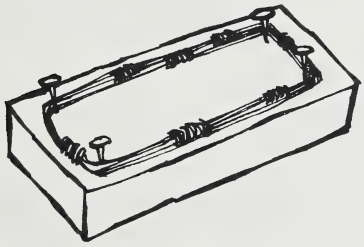
Procedure:
Pull yarn through each straw, tie a large knot to prevent the yarn from slipping from each straw. Weave separate yarn (weft) over and under straws. Twist the straws down as more "loom" or warping yarn is required. The straws may be taken out or left in. Tie a knot at the other end. The warp yarns can then be twisted together to form a fringe.

Evaluation/Comments:
This is another modification of equipment which makes the technique of weaving more physically manageable for children. The straws provide a stable warp around which to weave. Children who experience difficulty in the manipulation of yarn, as in finger weaving, should be guided to use straws until they have gained sufficient skill enabling them to, if necessary, weave without the straws. The straws may be used in another sense, they may be left in as part of the planned pattern. The purpose is changed to one where the straws are used in a decorative manner. For variation, the straws can be cut into pieces and used in the same manner as beads.

Wrapping Procedure

Wrapping is not weaving; however, this technique can be used along with basic weaving technique to provide variation.

Procedure:
Yarns are wrapped in a bunch or separately by winding another yarn around the warp yarns.



Wrap yarn around nails (if making a necklace). Wrap selected section of yarn. On a woven hanging, areas may be wrapped but left unwoven.

Frame Loom

Size of looms may vary.

Materials:
Pine or other available wood boards 1" x 1".

Finishing nails.

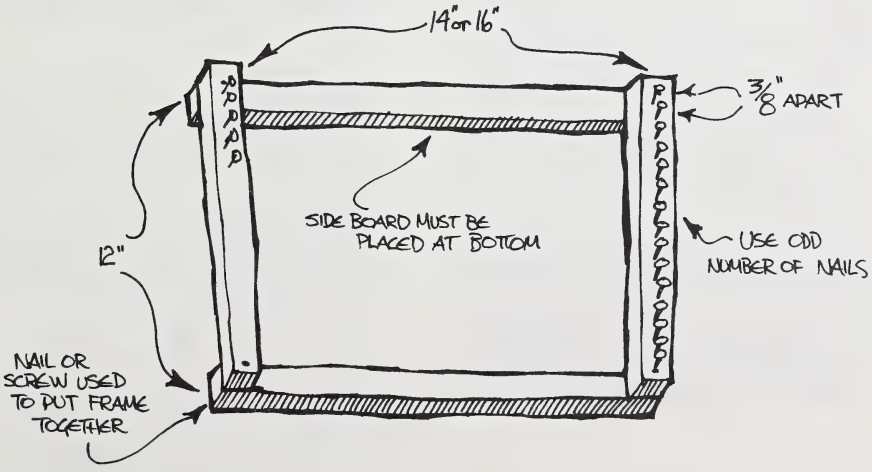
Screws or 1½" nails.

Instructions:
1. Cut out 2 lengths of 1" x 1" board. This may be 14" or 16" long.

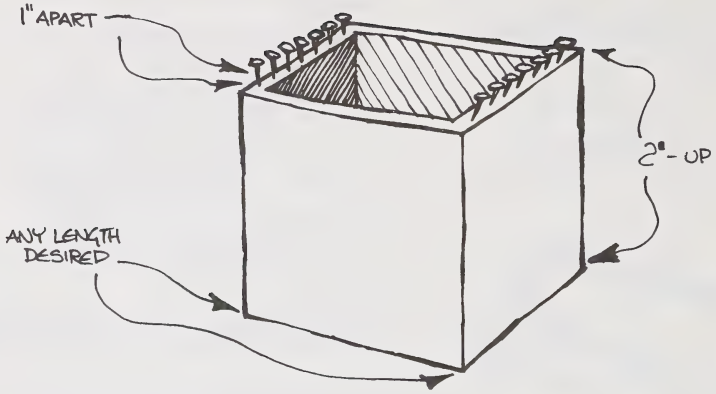
2. Cut out 2 lengths (12") of 1" x 1" board.

3. Nail as shown in diagram above.

Procedure:
Warp the frame loom by tying warping yarn to one nail and then looping yarn around each opposite nail. Weave the welt yarn through. A heddle may be made to simplify the weaving; however, it should be free of the side boards, passing easily through to the other side of the frame space. A shuttle may be made from cardboard.



Box Loom



Procedure:
1. Hammer nails in one inch apart; this should be done on the width of the box. Slant nails to the outside. (This will prevent the yarn from slipping off).

2. Tie warp thread to one end nail, and bring down and around two nails; up and around two nails until loom is threaded.

3. Tie warp yarn to end nail on other side.

4. Then weave the weft yarn through.

Evaluation & comment:
The equipment is easy to build and has no flaws. The nails are at the correct distance, the yarn is easy to work with, and instructions are easy to follow.

There should, however, be a shuttle present so that it is easier to run the weft through. The heddle loom or cards may be introduced along with the box loom. In this case the yarn should be wrapped completely around the box.

The only problem lies in the fact that the child becomes bored doing the same thing. Therefore, a variation of weaves, knots, colors should be at the child's disposal to prevent this.

Nice wall hangings, three-dimensional objects, and even small carpets can be made from this simple loom.

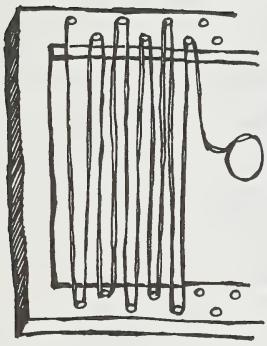
Picture Frame Weaving

by Pirkko Karvonen

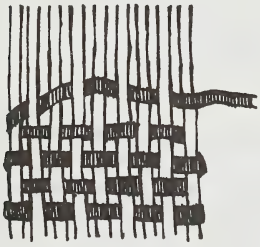
Use a picture frame or a canvas stretcher to put your warp on. The width of our warp was 3½" and length was 15". You can make an insect as follows:

1. Pound nails at both ends of your frame for the desired width. Ours was 4" to allow for shrinkage. Stagger the nails. 6 nails to an inch.

2. Use cotton twine for warp. Take the ball of warp yarn and tie it to the first nail at the top of the frame. Then take it to the corresponding nail at the bottom of the frame and continue till you have the desired width. Start weaving from bottom of frame.

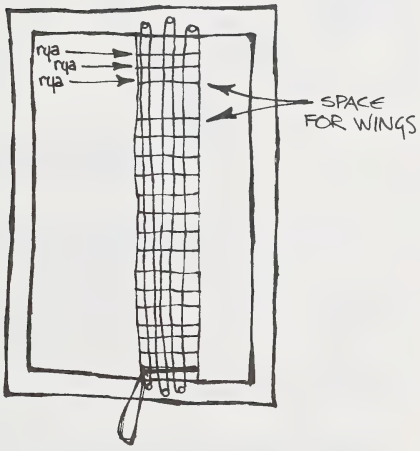


3. All our weaving will be in plain weave, also called tabby. Your weft passes under one warp thread and over one, right across. Do not pull the weft straight. Make it form an arc, a bubble. Weave like this for ½".



4. Now do a row of rya knots (Ghiordes Knots). We pre-cut our wool 10" long, two strands two-ply wool in each rya. Weave plain weave for 1", then a row of rya; alternate like this till you have 9" woven. Use other colors too in the rya. We used yellow (1 strand heavy rug wool, 3 strands 2 ply yarn), also green (1 strand rug weight, 3 strands finer green wool).

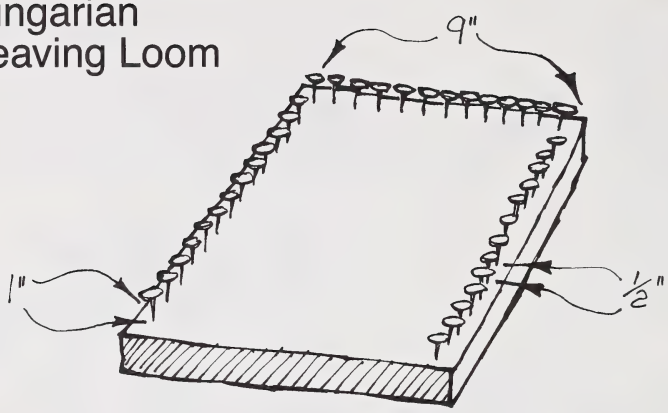
5. Weave plain weave for 2¾". This is the space for the wings. Weave a row of rya knots, short ones, cut strands 4½" long. Weave plain weave for ½", then rya. Continue till you have three rows of rya. Weave the rest of the warp in plain weave, and take your insect off the frame.



6. Take a piece of aluminum wire 72" long. Shape it into wings. Cover the wings with cloth torn from an old sheet, ½" wide. Wrap the wire with rug wool. Now attach the wings to the middle of the body by sewing. Cut wire 14" and cover as above; this is for the antennae.

If you wish to shape the insect, do not weave the full width of the warp at the bottom of the frame, but start about 1½" for width. Leave the warp threads free on the side of your insect and enlarge as you go on until you are using the full width of your warp. In the same way you may decrease at the end where the head of the insect is at the top of your frame, after you have left space for the wings.

Hungarian Weaving Loom



1. Any size of flat board may be used.

2. Place 13 nails along top of loom ½" apart.

3. Draw lines along the three sides an inch from the edge.

4. Mark off at one-half inch intervals.

5. Hammer finishing nails at the same height.

Procedure:

1. Attach warp strings (2) about six times the length of the loom to each nail by looping the yarn together to form a knot. Press knot into each nail.

2. Stretch two of yarn above nails and two laid down below nails.

3. Double yarn about 8 yards long and loop over corner nail. Pull doubled weft yarn across the warp horizontally, placing it behind the corner nail on other side and secure with masking tape.

4. Exchange position of bottom and top warp yarns. Keep two top warps together but spread the bottom warp apart.

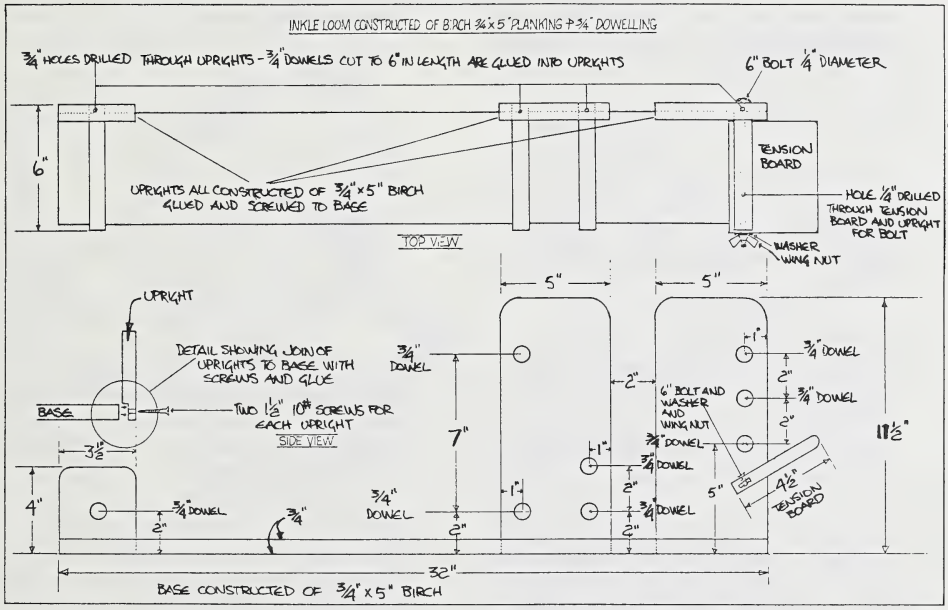
5. When the bottom is reached, make a fringe by tying one top warp with a matching bottom warp.

Hungarian Loom

A Hungarian Loom will yield the same square, or rectangular form. However, altering colors of yarn, and type of yarn can give a variety of products. For example, instead of using the same colored yarn for the warp threads, two different colors may be used. Changing the weft colors also adds to the final product. Therefore, variety can be achieved even with one simple form.

These are easy building and procedure instructions; they can be followed by children seven years and above.

The only problem with this loom is the nails are too close for the younger children. Also, the yarn has a tendency to slip off; therefore, a 2-ply wool is better than the 4-ply used. When first introduced, children may have difficulty in remembering which yarns to lift.



Inkleloom

The inkleloom forms one basic shape, which is a band, or strap; this leaves very little room for variation of shape. However, colors can be altered to give different designs, and patterns. One example of harmonizing colors is brown, orange, and yellow. When changing colors, always attach the new color at the starting point, or at bar 6.

The yarns recommended are strong, and smooth textured. For this reason, either 2-ply wool or 6-ply rayon rug yarn is used. But, better than these two is #3 pearl cotton thread. It has been found that ordinary 4-ply wool is also usable; however, it does have a tendency to stretch so that tension varies. For the more casual projects, cotton cord or jute can be used.

The loom for which the building design has been given is woven in the same manner as that one for which the instructions are given. The extra dowels allow for a longer finished product.

There are alternatives to the inkleloom; one such is the cardboard inkleloom.

The equipment is a stiff piece of cardboard, two dowels, six push pins, and a beater.

The procedure is a follows:

1. The yarn is tied to one of the push pins at the bottom of the cardboard.

2. Once, the first round, the yarn is carried over the dowel, then back under it, then over it again.

3. On the second round the yarn is carried under the dowel, then over it backwards and finally under.

4. The rounds are altered in this way.

5. To form the heddles, a stick (dowel) is placed through the bottom and top threads. Then all the bottom threads are placed through the heddles, which are made now.

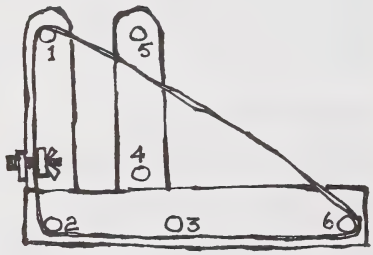
6. When it is in this position, shed 1 is formed, and when the heddle stick is pulled up shed 2 is formed.

7. The procedure now is the same as an ordinary inkleloom.

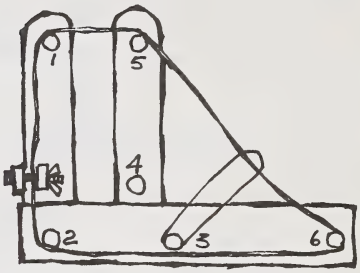
Because the loom is made out of cardboard, it will be harder to handle by the children, due to the fact that it may bend. The bending may cause the yarn to slip off the loom, or may make the final product at various tensions.

The inkleloom is recommended for children twelve years and over. This age group has no problems with the loom, and enjoy it.

Side view of Inkleloom.



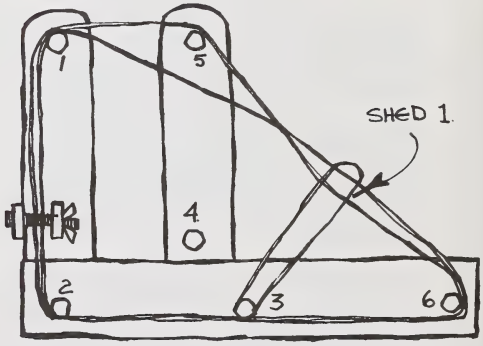
The first round is made.



The second round is carried. Make sure it goes through the heddle, and over Bar 5. These rounds are alternated as many times as desired (for a belt 30 warp threads are needed).

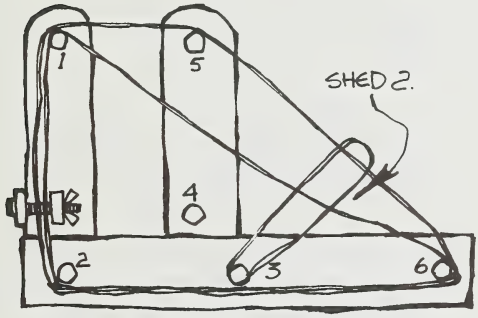
When warping is completed, untie the knot at bar 6, and tie the end to the thread you have just finished using. Now tighten the wing nut.

Tie at bar 6.



Push down firmly on warp yarns below bar 5. This separates the threads which run through the heddles from those that don't. The triangular area is Shed 1.

Take a 1" x 5" cardboard, and place it inside the shed, 4" from bar 6.



Now, push the same threads towards bar 5. The new shed is formed; place the cardboard in the same manner as before in this shed.

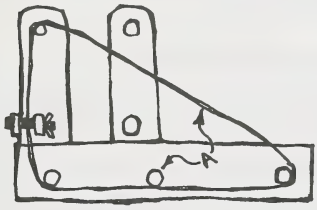
This marks off the distance between the knots, and the weaving fringe. It also gives something to push the yarn against.

Produce Shed 1 again, and pass weft thread through from left to right. Push firmly against the cardboard. Form shed 2, and carry thread back right to left. Repeat alternating the sheds. After 5" unknot the weft yarn at bar 6. Hold the weft yarns, and pull warp yarns towards yourself. Slide heddles into original place. Repeat the pulling of the warp yarns every 5" woven. If warp yarns are too tight, untighten wingnut screw; if this doesn't work, pull out bar 2, then tighten wing nuts.

When weaving is finished, cut threads. The ends can be fringed or braided.

The diagram for the building of the inkleloom is very easy to follow. The loom takes about three hours to make once all the equipment is present. The only change necessary for the loom, however, is that the dowels should be able to be rotated for easy sliding of the belt.

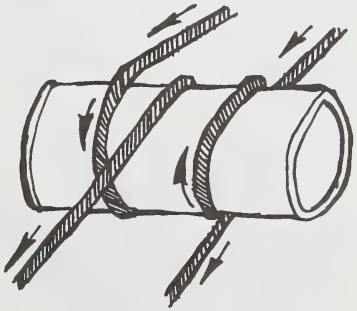
The heddles may give a slight problem as they should be about four inches long on this loom, or the length of A.



The equipment and instructions were tested on a twelve-year-old child, and there were no problems. The child found the equipment easy to work with, and the instructions easy to follow.

Adaption of the Inkleloom

Materials:
pop can or paper rod
yarn
tape
scissors
cotton or linen thread for heddles



Procedure:
Cut yarn, knot end and tape to table. Tape one end of roll to table. Warp by wrapping around roll. Alternate yarns over and round roll; under and round roll.

Adjust tension of yarn and tie around stick. Pick up alternate yarn and tie a string heddle. Make a shuttle and proceed to weave. Be sure to tie to a stable object to provide tension.

Evaluations/Comments:
This method can be more difficult to weave on than the inkleloom, as the tying and holding of the yarn is difficult unless you are an experienced weaver and know the process. This method is an alternative for those who have no inkleloom.

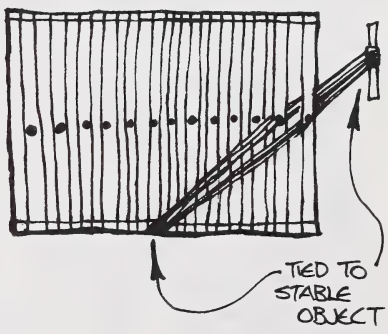
However, it is recommended that this method not be used with elementary school children unless the instructor has the time to set up the loom for each child.

Heddle Loom

Equipment:
¼" thick, ½" wide, 6" long stick or popsicle sticks
8 nails or glue

1. Drill holes through 13 of the sticks at the middle. Holes may also be made by heating a coat hanger wire and burning a hole.

2. Nail or glue the 13 sticks to the top and bottom frame.



Procedure:
1. Tie one end of yarn to a stable object.

2. Carry the yarn through the hole to the other side, again wind around a stable object.

3. Carry yarn through the space between two boards, around the first stable object, through the hole, around second stable object. Repeat until completed.

4. Tie one end of the weft to warp fibers, pull loom down pass shuttle through, pull loom up, pass shuttle through. Repeat until completed.

5. Can leave a fringe or complete fully.

6. Makes excellent belts, scarves, purses, wall hangings, etc.

Heddle Loom - Alternatives
Larger holes may be drilled for the use of thicker yarn.

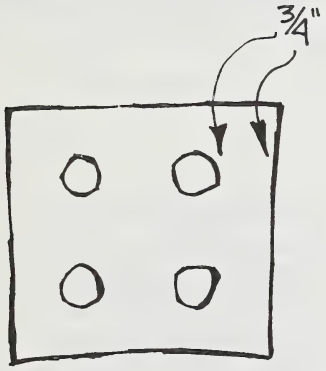
Any size of the heddle may be made.

Rags may be substituted for yarn; however, a large heddle is usually necessary.

The heddle may be used in combination with a box or frame looms.

This loom is very easy to use with very young children or beginners as it is very easy to work. It can be set up anywhere as long as the object to which the yarns are tied are stable.

Card Weaving



1. Take six, three-inch square cards. (Plastic is very good)

2. Drill, or punch four ¼" diameter holes about ¾" away from the sides in all six cards.

3. Take four pieces of warp thread of desired length. (#3 pearl cotton, or 4-ply wool).

4. Put the four pieces through each of the holes.

Procedure:
Turning hole (a) towards yourself, weave welt through. Then turn (b) towards yourself, and weave; then (c); then (b); then (a) again. Keep repeating this until the belt is woven.

Card weaving forms a band, or strip used for belts, straps on handbags, or for luggage.

Instead of using one color, a pattern can be formed. For examples, a nice four-colored belt can be made from the following pattern.

Card Numbers

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	B	B	R	R	B	B
B	W	R	B	B	R	W
C	R	W	R	R	W	R
D	G	G	W	W	G	G

B - Black
R - Red
W - White
G - Gray

As soon as the weaver has mastered six card weaving, more cards can be used to create more complicated and varied designs.

Recommended weaving materials such as jute, electrical cord, fishing line, can create a very interesting effect. One simple basic design mastered allows for creativity in other ways. The cards may be used on the frame, box or inkleloom.

An Adaption of the Salish Loom

Salish Indians lived in what is now British Columbia, surrounding the area where Vancouver is today. They wove blankets to use as bedding or capes from goat hair or dog hair spun with cedar bark. Sometimes they added cat-tail fluff or feathers to their yarns.

To weave blankets, a simple loom was constructed of two crossboards and two upright supports. The loom was warped in a way that allowed the completed blanket to be twice as long as the loom.

The Salish-type loom is easily constructed. You will need:

1 piece of wood 1" x 2" x 4" long 1⅝" dowel, 36" long.

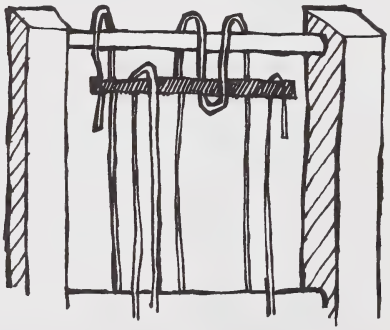
Cut both these pieces in half. Drill a hole 5/8" in diameter in each end of the 1" x 2" x 2' pieces, drilling from the one inch face.

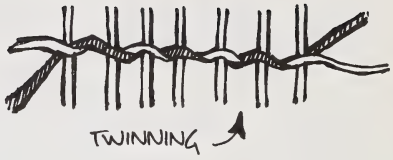
Fit the dowels into the holes to make a square frame.

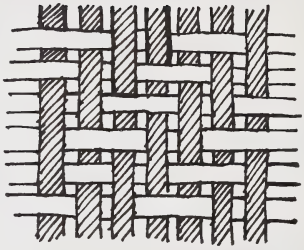
To prepare for weaving, follow the diagram exactly. Keep your eyes on the diagram throughout the warping (putting on the yarns on which you will weave). If you have done it properly, you will be able to insert your hand between the two layers of warp, and move it freely from the top crossbar to the bottom crossbar.

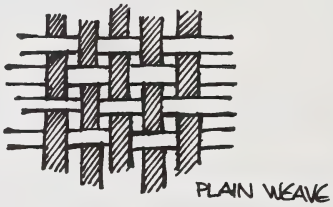
Weave on the top layer only. When you have filled one side, pull the stick around to the back, and continue. When you are finished, pull out the stick and you will have one long piece of weaving.

The twill was usually used for blankets. You could, of course, experiment with any weave on this loom.









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